

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application with claims 1 and 8 being amended by this response. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended for clarity and the specification has been similarly amended to conform with the amendments made to the claims. Support for these amendments is provided throughout the specification and specifically on Page 7, line 23.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baker et al. (US 5,570,366).

The present invention provides a device for connecting a wireless network to at least one other network. The device includes a bridge module for managing a plurality of ports for connecting to respective networks. The bridge module includes a link management module for managing associations with an access point of a centralized wireless network and devices of networks connected to the bridge device other than the wireless network. The bridge device is adapted to be a station of the wireless network.

The present invention "use[s] a wireless network...to act as a backbone for connecting other networks" (Page 2, lines 5-6). There are two primarily known wireless networks, a centralized wireless network and an IEEE 802.11. "In a centralized wireless network...a device called Access Point (AP) centralizes certain management

functions...In IEEE 802.11, the Access Point may comprise a bridge function, in order to allow the connection of the wireless network to another network of any type” (Page 1, lines 11-16). Each of these networks allows only one Access Point per basic service set (BSS). In contrast, the present claimed invention includes a bridging function in the mobile terminals of the wireless network to allow each mobile terminal to connect to a network other a the wireless network. Therefore, the wireless network of the present claimed invention can act as a backbone for connecting to a plurality of other networks.

Baker et al. describes a filtering system with bridge-based Access Point. Baker et al. note that many broadcast or multicast messages which are forwarded to the wireless LANs are not required and therefore aim to filter out unneeded messages so that they do not impact the bandwidth of the wireless network.

Baker et al. “relate[s] to communication systems in general and more particularly to communication systems that include both wired and wireless networks” (Col. 1, lines 6-9). Baker is particularly concerned with preventing the transmission of unused information frames on the wireless networks. This is most useful in system having mobile terminals in the wireless network.

Baker et al. illustrate in Figure 3 “a communications network including an end station A, a plurality of wired LAN’s joined by bridges and a plurality of access point or base stations. Each access point communicates with a radio cell that includes one or more mobile terminals...A directed packet is forwarded from station A, through three LAN networks, two bridges and an access point to a single mobile terminal B” (Col. 3,

lines 6-13). In “an unfiltered broadcast packet over the same communications network...the broadcast packet is sent to every LAN, over every bridge and, through every access point to every mobile terminal if there is no filtering action” (See Figure 4 and Col. 3, lines 24-28).

“Mobile terminals can move from one access point to another” (Col. 6, lines 35-36). These access points may implement bridges. The Office Action asserts that Baker et al. teach a bridge adapted to a mobile terminal. However, Baker et al. use “access point[s]...implemented as bridge[s]” (Col. 1, line 19). This is unlike the present claimed invention which uses bridges **adapted to** the mobile terminals of a wireless network. Figures 3 and 4 and the corresponding description of Baker et al. merely describe “wired LAN’s joined by bridges and a plurality of access points...communicat[ing] with...one or more mobile terminals” (Col. 3, lines 7-10). Baker et al. do not indicate that the mobile terminal comprise a bridging function. The only wireless device that implements a bridge function is the access point. Therefore, Baker et al. neither disclose nor suggest a “Device (203, 204, 205) for connecting a wireless network to at least one other network comprising a bridge module for managing a plurality of ports for connecting to respective networks... wherein the bridge device is adapted to be a station of the wireless network” as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Additionally, Baker et al. do not indicate that the mobile terminal can be connected to networks **other than** the wireless network. The mobile terminals of Baker et al. as shown in Figures 3 and 4 are merely connected to a **single** wireless network.

Therefore, Baker et al. neither disclose nor suggest a “link management module for managing associations with an access point of a centralized wireless network and devices of networks connected to the bridge device **other than the wireless network**” as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

As claims 3-9 are dependent on independent claim 1 it is respectfully submitted that they are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above. In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker et al. (US 5,570,366) and further in view of Meier (US 6,407,991).

Meier describes a data communication network for providing dynamic routing though both wireless and wired subnetworks to support wireless communication devices and wired remote stations.

However, Meier, similar to Baker et al., is not concerned with a bridging function of a mobile terminal allowing for connection to networks other than the wireless network to which it belongs. This is unlike the present claimed invention which uses bridges **adapted to** the mobile terminals of a wireless network. Therefore, similar to Baker et al., Meier neither discloses nor suggests a “Device for connecting a

wireless network to at least one other network comprising a bridge module for managing a plurality of ports for connecting to respective networks... wherein the bridge device is adapted to be a station of the wireless network” as recited in claim 2 of the present invention.

Additionally, similar to Baker et al., Meier is not concerned with mobile terminals able to connect to networks other than the wireless network to which they belong. Therefore, Meier (with Baker et al.) neither discloses nor suggests a “link management module for managing associations-with an access point of a centralized wireless network and devices of networks connected to the bridge device **other than the wireless network**” as recited in claim 1 of the present claimed invention.

The Office Action asserts that the combination of the systems of Baker et al. and Meier would produce a system which uses mobile terminals with adapted bridging functions to connect to networks other than the wireless network and determine a spanning tree. However, this combination, similarly to the individual systems of Baker et al. and Meier, would neither disclose nor suggest a “Device (203, 204, 205) for connecting a wireless network to at least one other network comprising a bridge module for managing a plurality of ports for connecting to respective networks... wherein the bridge device is adapted to be a station of the wireless network” as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Additionally, this combination, similar to the individual systems of Baker et al. and Meier, neither discloses nor suggests a “link management module for managing associations with an access point of a centralized

wireless network and devices of networks connected to the bridge device **other than the wireless network**” as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Baker et al. and Meier, when taken alone or in combination, showing the above discussed features. It is thus further respectfully submitted that claim 2 is patentable over Baker et al. and Meier, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

The applicant respectfully submits, in view of the above arguments, that the all arguments made by the Examiner have been addressed and this rejection should be withdrawn. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

Serial No. 10/660,141

PF030065

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee
to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

Sebastian Perrot

By: 

Jack Schwartz

Reg. No. 34,721

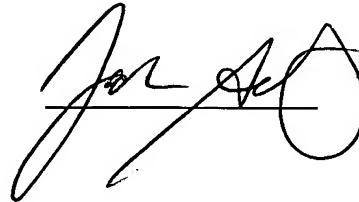
Tel. No. (609) 734-6866

Thomson Licensing Inc.
Patent Operations
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312
September 15, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date: September 15, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jon Sel", written over a horizontal line.